Clean Yamuna campaign in Delhi

3759. SHRIPREMCHAND GUPTA :WilI the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a clean Yamuna campaign in Delhi for three days during the last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Yamuna can be cleaned up only by improving the sewage system in Delhi which is absolute in disarray and also many of the programmes under Yamuna Action Plan still remained unfulfilled; and

(c) if so, what long term measures Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes Sir, There was a clean Yamuna Campaign organized by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in June, 2002 for three days.

(b) Even after completion of Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I of Government and several major works of construction of sewage treatment plants at 17 locations, the water quality of Yamuna has not shown appreciable improvement along Delhi stretch due to the following reasons :

(i) As against the present sewage generation of 3300 million litres per day (mid.), the installed sewage treatment capacity is 2300 mid. Thus, there is a gap of 1000 mid. in the installed sewage treatment capacity.

(ii) Out of about 130 Km. length of trunk sewer, about 90 Km. length requires refurbishing and rehabilitation as the sewers are either silted up or settled. As a result, the installed capacity of sewage treatment plant is not fully utilized and untreated sewage is discharged in the river through various drains.

(iii) Out of a total of 15 common effluent treatment plants to be constructed in 21 industrial estates, only 3 have been completed so far. The remaining ones are targeted for completion by December, 2003.

(iv) Lack of dilution capacity in the river particularly along Delhi.

(c) The work of cleaning of Yamuna river specially in Delhi can be completed only after the installation of additional sewage treatment capacity of 1000 mid, refurbishment and rehabilitation of defunct trunk sewers, completion of all the

common effluent treatment plants and maximum use of treated sewage for horticulture/agriculture in the absence of dilution capacity in the river.

Import, Production and dumping of plastics

3760. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of plastic/polythene imported/produced and dumped in India every year giving figures of the last three years;

(b) the impact of dumping of plastic and polythene on ecology, human beings and animals; and

(c) why Government are not banning/restricting the use of plastic/polythene
to very few items required for storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Indian Center for plastics in the Environment, the production and imports of plastics including poly ethylene in India are as follows:

Year	Production	Imports
	(In 1 000 Tonnes)	
2000-2001	3442	221
2001-2002	3917	302
2002-2003	4072	438

(b) and (c) Indiscriminate littering of plastics and environmentally unsound recycling practices may cause adverse impacts on ecology, human beings and animals. Ministry of Environment and Forests has prohibited the use of recycled plastic bags for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging of foodstuffs under the 'Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules 1999'. These rules also specify that the minimum thickness of carry bags made of virgin plastic and/or recycled plastics shall not be less than 20 microns. To further strengthen the regulations and to promote recycling/reuse, Ministry has also issued draft amendments to ban carry bags below 8"^{x} 12" in size.